

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 2354. This bill expands upon current law that authorizes agricultural commissions and councils to administer programs previously conducted by the Secretary of Food and Agriculture.

When implementing the provisions of this bill the Secretary should require entities petitioning the department to utilize a high standard for the notification of growers and ranchers affected by this section. Additionally, the bill directs the Secretary to hold a vote of the growers and ranchers upon showing of “substantial question of opposition.” Because these programs have significant authority including mandatory assessments, the Secretary should use a low threshold when determining whether there is a substantial question of opposition to the transfer of authority.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger